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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/816,526	03/23/2001	Thomas Mueller	10191/1773	8027

26646 7590 11/29/2006

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EXAMINER

MEI, XU

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/816,526

Applicant(s)

MUELLER ET AL.

Examiner

Xu Mei

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2615

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the applicant's amendment dated 09/11/2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee, U. S. Patent No. 6292440 in view of Lau et al, U. S. Patent No. 6990208.

Regarding claim 17, Lee discloses a MP3 car player (figure 1). Lee's disclosure comprises a display (301), which reads on a display; a speaker, which reads on a loudspeaker; CD/CD-ROM, and memory block (200), which reads a storage device; a keypad interface unit (302), which reads on an input apparatus; a controlling unit coupled to a MP3 decoder (400/500), which reads on a processor (col. 3, lines 10-43, col. 1, lines 48-65, col. 2, lines 17-39 and col. 4, lines 10-19). Even though Lee's display displays information about the MP3 files for playback and manipulation, Lee fails to specifically disclose the processor including an element for displaying directories located on the storage device.

Regarding processor including an element for displaying directories located on the storage device, in a similar field of endeavor, Lau et al. (herein, Lau) disclose a vehicle sound system which includes the storage of MP3 files to the music server and/or head unit (including a display) of the within a vehicle and/or internet music files into a computer, where in the multimedia files are stored in level of directories and obviously displayed. Lau also discloses a directory/playlist config contains files that include special configuration information for each play list that is clearly related to the multimedia data files stored in the directory /MP3, which reads on different virtual carriers as now amended and claimed (col. 5, lines 17-28, col. 6, lines 17-62, col. 8, lines 17-32 and lines 47-67).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Lee by providing displaying element with the capability of providing a display of directories indicated of the data files as data carriers, playlist (titles), as shown by Lau, in order to enhances the visual management and selection of the multimedia files for the automotive/car sound system.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Lee and Lau disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 17). Lee (figures 1-3 and col. 3, lines 10-43) and Lau discloses the storage device as removable from the disk drive (col. 4, lines 39-53, col. 6, lines 5-14 and col. 5, lines 17-28-Lau, as per claim 6), wherein obviously at least one of the files are automatically decoded and played back via the loudspeakers. And the display of the titles names and track numbers obviously teaches the processor extracting information, therein, as shown by Lee.

Regarding claims 10-12, Lee and Lau discloses everything as applied above (see claim 17). Lee and Lau (Lau) disclose the capability of special configuration of play back of the files (col. 6, lines 25-35), which provides random playback of a particular file and/or all files.

Regarding claims 13, Lee and Lau disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 17). Lee and Lau (col. 8, lines 47-67) disclose the storage device as CD file and hard disk.

Regarding claims 14, Lee and Lau disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 17). Lee (col. 1, lines 58-62) and Lau (col. 6, lines 17-35) disclose the multimedia files as MP3, which indicates the files coded in MP3 format.

Regarding claims 15, Lee and Lau disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 17). Lee and Lau (Lee) disclose a keyboard interface, which may constitutes as a remote control apparatus.

Regarding claims 4, Lee and Lau disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 17). Lee and Lau fail to disclose the input apparatus including a rocker operable in a vertical and horizontal direction. A rocker type input device was well known in the art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Lee and Lau by implementing a rocker for the purpose of enhanced and easy-to-use input manipulation.

Regarding claims 16, Lee and Lau disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 17). Lee and Lau fail to disclose the processor displaying information in a step-by-step process. A step-by-step display of information was well known in the art.

Art Unit: 2615

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Lee and Lau by implementing the processor to provide step-by-step display of information for the purpose of providing the user with visual efficiency of the information about a particular file or files.

Regarding claim 2-3, Lee discloses a MP3 car player (figure 1). Lee's disclosure comprises a display (301), which reads on a display; a speaker, which reads on a loudspeaker; CD/CD-ROM, and memory block (200), which reads a storage device; a keypad interface unit (302), which reads on an input apparatus; a controlling unit coupled to a MP3 decoder (400/500), which reads on a processor (col. 3, lines 10-43, col. 1, lines 48-65, col. 2, lines 17-39 and col. 4, lines 10-19). Even though Lee's display displays information about the MP3 files for playback and manipulation, Lee fails to specifically disclose the processor for decoding to include an element for displaying directories located on the storage device.

Regarding processor including an element for displaying directories located on the storage device, in a similar field of endeavor, Lau et al. (herein, Lau) disclose a vehicle sound system which includes the storage of MP3 files to the music server and/or head unit (including a display) of the within a vehicle and/or internet music files into a computer, where in the multimedia files are stored in level of directories and displayed via the head unit display and the display of the controller of the computer. Lau also discloses a directory/playlist config contains files that include special configuration information for each play list that is clearly related to the multimedia data files stored in

Art Unit: 2615

the directory /MP3, which reads on different virtual carriers as now amended and claimed (col. 5, lines 17-28, col. 6, lines 17-62, col. 8, lines 17-32 and lines 47-67), and Lau further discloses the use of GUI, wherein the tracks (files) may be manipulated by being removed, added, etc. to playlist or directory (col. 13, lines 26-67).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Lee by providing displaying element with the capability of providing a display of directories indicated of the data files as data carriers, playlist (titles), as shown by Lau, in order to enhances the visual management and selection of the multimedia files for the automotive/car sound system.

Regarding claim 5, Lee discloses a MP3 car player (figure 1). Lee's disclosure comprises a display (301), which reads on a display; a speaker, which reads on a loudspeaker; CD/CD-ROM, and memory block (200), which reads a storage device; a keypad interface unit (302), which reads on an input apparatus; a controlling unit coupled to a MP3 decoder (400/500), which reads on a processor (col. 3, lines 10-43, col. 1, lines 48-65, col. 2, lines 25-39 and col. 4, lines 10-19). Even though Lee's display displays information about the MP3 files for playback and manipulation, Lee fails to specifically disclose the processor for decoding to include an element for displaying directories located on the storage device, therein as claimed

Regarding processor including an element for displaying directories located on the storage device, in a similar field of endeavor, Lau et al. (herein, Lau) disclose a vehicle sound system which includes the storage of MP3 files to the music server and/or

Art Unit: 2615

head unit (including a display) of the within a vehicle and/or internet music files into a computer, where in the multimedia files are stored in level of directories and displayed via the head unit display and the display of the controller of the computer. Lau also discloses a directory/playlist config contains files that include special configuration information for each play list that is clearly related to the multimedia data files stored in the directory /MP3, which reads on different virtual carriers as now amended and claimed (col. 5, lines 17-28, col. 6, lines 17-62, col. 8, lines 17-32 and lines 47-67), and Lau further indicates how the tracks of a play list may be reproduced, wherein it obvious to the function of a playback device to display a particular file or track for a predetermined time during the reproduction of the file/track, and display a second file/track after that the first file/track has come to an end (col. 9, lines 30-45).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Lee by providing displaying element with the capability of providing a display of directories indicated of the data files as data carriers, playlist (titles), as shown by Lau, in order to enhances the visual management and selection of the multimedia files for the automotive/car sound system.

Regarding claim 9, Lee discloses a MP3 car player (figure 1). Lee's disclosure comprises a display (301), which reads on a display; a speaker, which reads on a loudspeaker; CD/CD-ROM, and memory block (200), which reads a storage device; a keypad interface unit (302), which reads on an input apparatus; a controlling unit coupled to a MP3 decoder (400/500), which reads on a processor (col. 3, lines 10-43,

Art Unit: 2615

col. 1, lines 48-65, col. 2, lines 17-39 and col. 4, lines 10-19). Lee's display of the titles names and track numbers obviously teaches the processor extracting information, therein. Even though Lee's display displays information about the MP3 files for playback and manipulation, Lee fails to specifically disclose the processor for decoding to include an element for displaying directories located on the storage device, therein as claimed.

Regarding processor including an element for displaying directories located on the storage device, in a similar field of endeavor, Lau et al. (herein, Lau) disclose a vehicle sound system which includes the storage of MP3 files to the music server and/or head unit (including a display) of the within a vehicle and/or internet music files into a computer, where in the multimedia files are stored in level of directories and displayed via the head unit display and the display of the controller of the computer. Lau also discloses a directory/playlist config contains files that include special configuration information for each play list that is clearly related to the multimedia data files stored in the directory /MP3, which reads on different virtual carriers as now amended and claimed (col. 5, lines 17-28, col. 6, lines 17-62, col. 8, lines 17-32 and lines 47-67).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Lee by providing displaying element with the capability of providing a display of directories indicated of the data files as data carriers, playlist (titles), as shown by Lau, in order to enhances the visual management and selection of the multimedia files for the automotive/car sound system.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Berhan, Li, and Lam et al disclose different audio systems for management and playback of stored audio data.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

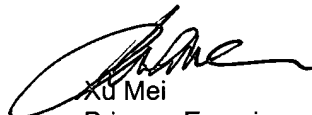
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xu Mei whose telephone number is 571-272-7523. The examiner can normally be reached on maxi flex.

Art Unit: 2615

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Xu Mei
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2615
11/22/2006